



St Joseph's
College
TOOWOOMBA

10 March 2020

A special message for Parents and Caregivers - novel coronavirus COVID-19

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am writing to update you on the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

We continue to take advice from Queensland Health and the Department of Education in relation to this matter and the latest information is available at [novel coronavirus](#) on the Queensland Health website. The following information summarises the current advice to schools/services.

Health and hygiene

Queensland Health urges all communities to be vigilant about health and hygiene at this time and to that end, have asked us remind communities of simple hygiene practices that support public health by

- cleaning hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs
- covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing and
- avoiding contact with anyone who has flu-like symptoms.

We have these strategies in place in our school and students have also been reminded of them by their teachers. If your children are unwell or show symptoms of illness, they should see their doctor. Parents will be advised as soon as possible should a case of coronavirus be confirmed at school.

Overseas excursions and student exchange programs

All current overseas travel involving staff or students is being assessed on a case by case basis. Given the current circumstances it is unlikely that overseas travel will be approved for the foreseeable future. As the year progresses, international travel will be subject to review as we gain further clarity.

Families choosing to travel overseas in the near future should be aware that changing circumstances might mean periods of quarantine in an overseas or Australian location, or self-isolation when returning home. This may impact on attendance at work or school.

Financial impacts

The economic impact of this health emergency has been well documented. As always, we encourage families in genuine financial difficulties to have early talks with principals/ kindergarten directors so that we can respond supportively.

Let's create your
best future, *together.*

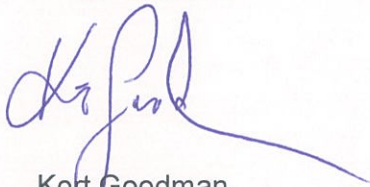


Ongoing communication

We will continue to communicate with school families as the coronavirus situation unfolds. Please look out for further communication from us which is an important part of keeping our school communities safe. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your child's teacher or principal.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our children and school healthy.

Yours sincerely



Kott Goodman
Principal

